the current year which is 7.61% of the total allotment under these Plan Heads.

As regard modernization of railway stations in the State of Tamil Nadu is concerned no separate figures for allocation on Modernisation of Sations are maintained. The jurisdiction of Southern and South Western Railways partly falls in Tamil Nadu. Funds allotted to Southern Railway and South Western Railway during 2006-07 under Plan Head 'Passenger Amenities' is Rs. 38.91 crore put together which is 11.02% of the total allotment under this Plan Head.

Gulbarga-Bidar Rail Line

1926. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much money have been spent for laying the railway line between Gulbarga to Bidar;

(b) since when the work has started on this line; and

(c) whether it is a fact that from Gulbarga to Bidar land acquisition work has not at all taken up; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are going to take up to complete the work at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU):

(a) to (c) Gulbarga-Bidar new line was included in Budget 1997-98. Land acquisition proceedings have been taken up. Earthwork and bridge works have been completed between Khanapur-Nadagaon (32 Km.). An outlay of Rs. 10 crore has been provided in Budget 2006-07 and an expenditure of Rs. 38.09 crore has been incurred on the work up to 31.3.2006.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) No target date for completion of the work has been fixed. However, the work is progressing as per overall availability of resources.

Rail accidents

†1927. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the laws are being vastly ignored with a view to increase the income of the Railways causing the danger of increase in the rail accidents;

(b) the details of rail accidents taken place in the country between January, 2006 and June, 2006, train-wise;

(c) the details of the persons killed and injured in these rail accidents alongwith the details of losses accured to Railways in terms of crores of rupees; and

(d) the details of schemes being formulated by Government with a view to bring down the number of the rail accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir. Safety is the prime concern of Indian Railways and every case is taken not to compromise the same.

(b) and (c) There have been 109 consequential train accidents during the period from January to June 2006, in which 81 lives were lost and 150 injured. The losses accured in terms of cost of damage to Railway property in these accidents have been Rs. 11.31 crores approximately. Accident-wise details are at enclosed statement (*see* below)

(b) All possible steps are undertaken on continuing basis to prevent accidents. These measures include timely replacement of over-aged assets, adoption of suitable technologies for upgradation and maintenance of track, rolling stock, signaling and interlocking systems, safety drives and inspections at regular intervals to monitor and educate staff for observance of safe practices. As a result there had been a declining trend in the number of accidents from 473 in 2000-01 to 234 in 2005-06. In the current financial year also there have been 57 consequential train accidents upto June 2006 as compared to 63 in the corresponding period of last yar. All figures are provisional.